

# ECOFIN Councils Calendar

8 July 2008 ▶ Brussels

7 October 2008  
▶ Luxembourg

4 November 2008  
▶ Brussels

2 December 2008  
▶ Brussels

Informal Council:  
12 and 13 September 2008  
▶ Nice

## ECOFIN Press Events

- ▶ Press briefings organised **before** each ECOFIN Council
- ▶ Press Conference held by Christine LAGARDE **at the end** of each ECOFIN Council

More information on  
[www.ue2008.fr](http://www.ue2008.fr)

Practical information on the infor-  
mal ECOFIN Council in Nice

Accreditation as of 1 July on  
[www.ue2008.fr](http://www.ue2008.fr)

On account of the season, it is advisable  
**to reserve your hotel rooms well in  
advance.**

For more information, see the websites  
of the Nice Tourist Office:

[www.nicetourisme.com](http://www.nicetourisme.com)

[www.niceres.com](http://www.niceres.com)

Graphic design: studio Sircom



## The ECOFIN Councils

French  
Presidency  
of the  
Council of the  
European Union

[www.ue2008.fr](http://www.ue2008.fr)

France will hold the  
Presidency of the  
Council of the European  
Union for six months as  
of 1 July 2008.

Christine Lagarde,  
Minister for the  
Economy, Industry and  
Employment, will chair  
the ECOFIN Council  
from July to  
December 2008.



## Key facts

### What is an ECOFIN Council?

▶ The Economic and Financial Affairs Council is composed of the economy and finance ministers of the 27 Member States of the European Union and representatives of the European Commission and the European Central Bank. This Council, which meets once a month, will be presided over by Christine Lagarde in the second half-year of 2008.

▶ The ECOFIN Council deals with EU policies in a number of areas, such as:

- the monitoring of the EU's economic situation;
- issues regarding the euro;
- the financial markets;
- the coordination of budgetary policies;
- fiscal matters and economic relations with non-EU countries.

It acts mainly by **qualified majority**, in consultation or codecision with the European Parliament, except for fiscal matters, which require unanimity.

There is also an ECOFIN Budget Council, which meets twice a year to examine and adopt the annual budget for the European Union with the European Parliament.

### What is an informal ECOFIN Council?

The informal ECOFIN Council is held in the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and brings together economy and finance ministers, the governor of the ECB, the governors of the national central banks and representatives of the European Commission. It encourages open exchanges in a less formal context, but does not adopt legal decisions. It meets in Nice on **12 and 13 September 2008**.

## The issues

### “A simple, exacting and ambitious Presidency”

*Christine LAGARDE*

The French Presidency wants **to listen to** European citizens and achieve **concrete results** to demonstrate the added value of the EU for everyone.

# French Presidency and ECOFIN

### Within the ECOFIN Council, the French Presidency's main aims are to:

- strengthen the European financial system in the face of market turmoil by harmonising its monitoring;
- respond to economic shocks, such as the oil price increase and ensure the smooth functioning of economic and monetary union;
- advance the integration of the single market, notably with regard to fiscal matters, for the benefit of companies and citizens.

In brief, the French Presidency's aim is to make **Europe stronger** in the global economy.

## Press contacts

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